INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6   G06F17/60   H04Q3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6   G06F   H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 94 27411 A (KONINKLIJKE PTT NEDERLAND N.V.) 24 November 1994 see page 2, line 23 – page 8, line 18 ---	1-27
X	PROCEEDINGS OF THE 7TH AUSTRALIAN JOINT CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, November 1994, ARMIDALE, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA, pages 1-12, XP000603182 SYCARA: "The Present and Future of DAI: a Study in Enterprise Integration" see the whole document --- -/--	1-27

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
28 May 1997	12.06.97

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (- 31-70) 340-3016	Nicholls, J

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1

Intern   aal Application No
PCT/GB 97/00395

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INTELLIGENT AND COOPERATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS, vol. 1, no. 2, 1992, pages 291-317, XP000603307 LAASRI ET AL: "A Generic Model for Intelligent Negotiating Agents" see page 293, last paragraph see page 301, paragraph 3 - page 304, paragraph 1	1-27
X	KNOWLEDGE ENGINEERING REVIEW, vol. 10, no. 2, June 1995, UK, pages 115-152, XP000671466 WOOLDRIDGE ET AL: "Intelligent Agents: Theory and Practice" cited in the application see the whole document	1-27
X	INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS ENGINEERING, vol. 1, no. 2, 1 January 1992, pages 102-114, XP000365082 JENNINGS N R: "GRATE: A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR CO-OPERATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING" cited in the application see the whole document	1-27
X	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, vol. 75, no. 2, June 1995, NETHERLANDS, pages 195-240, XP000671465 JENNINGS: "Controlling cooperative problem solving in industrial multi-agent systems using joint intentions" cited in the application see the whole document	1-27
A	PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES IN DISTRIBUTED AND NETWORKED ENVIRONMENTS, June 1995, WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, pages 60-67, XP000603175 MILOSEVIC ET AL: "Supporting Business Contracts in Open Distributed Systems" see the whole document	22
A	IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 13, no. 7, September 1995, USA, pages 1150-1161, XP000601895 JORDAN ET AL: "Connection Establishment in High-Speed Networks" * Section IV *	1-27

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPEN DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING, vol. C-1, October 1991, BERLIN, GERMANY, pages 397-399, XP000603189 VON BECHTOLSHEIM: "Transaction Costs in Agent Systems - An Economic Perspective on the Coordination Problem in Distributed Systems" see the whole document ---	1-18
A	BT TECHNOLOGICAL JOURNAL, vol. 13, no. 2, April 1995, IPSWICH, GB, pages 120-131, XP000500764 MARTIN: "Twenty twenty vision - software architectures for intelligence into the 21st century" see the whole document -----	1-27

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9427411 A	24-11-94	US 5504837 A	02-04-96
		AU 6796994 A	12-12-94
		EP 0698331 A	28-02-96
		FI 955404 A	09-11-95
		JP 8510369 T	29-10-96
		NO 954493 A	09-01-96